

CHAILEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1921.

Area	49,975 acres.
Population, 1921	12,590
Inhabited Houses	2,748
Average number of persons per house	4.58

The district is large and scattered, embracing 49,975 acres, and being nearly fourteen miles from end to end. The greater part of the area is agricultural in character, and there are no trades carried on which are a nuisance or offensive.

The amount of Poor Law Relief for the district for the year was £475 7s. 4½d.

There are no general hospitals in the area, but the Smallpox Hospital at Sedgbrook, and the Chailey Isolation Hospital at Chailey, both come in the district.

The former is under the management of a Joint Committee on which Chailey Rural District Council is represented.

The latter is provided by the Chailey Rural District Council, and is reported on later.

STATISTICS.

Year.	Population. (estimated).	Nett Births.		Nett Deaths.			
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 year.		At all ages.	
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births.	Number.	Rate.
1917	9,990	159	14.3	8	50.3	143	14.3
1918	10,020	143	14.3	9	62.9	164	16.3
1919	10,530	149	14.2	11	73.8	153	14.5
1920	10,950	293	26.7	10	34.1	120	10.1
1921	12,590	230	18.26	4	17.4	100	7.94

The causes of deaths were as follows :—

Influenza	5
Tuberculosis, lungs	6
Tuberculosis, other forms	2
Cancer	12
Diabetes	1
Cerebral haemorrhage	3
Heart Disease	26
Arterio-sclerosis	5
Bronchitis	4
Pneumonia	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	3
Ulcer of Stomach	2
Appendicitis	3
Nephritis	2
Congenital Diseases, &c.	3
Suicide	2
Other form of violence	5
Other Defined Diseases	11
Ill defined or unknown	1
Total	100

Of the births recorded there were 14 illegitimate, a rate of 6 per cent.

The total number of births was again high this year, but not quite up to the number recorded last year. The Birth Rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1921 was 22.4, and the Death Rate 12.1, the Chailey Death Rate being the lowest of which I have any trace, so far at this district is concerned.

Of the total 100 deaths no less than 53 were deaths taking place at the age of 65 years or over.

The total deaths of children under the age of one year only amounted to 4, and these were all among legitimate children.

The "Infantile Mortality," that is the proportion of deaths under one year to 1,000 births, was 17.4, which is very good, but with such small figures one cannot congratulate oneself too readily as a few deaths produce so great an alteration in the rate. However, I do think it a matter of congratulation that there was not a single death of a child under two from diarrhoea, which suggests that the good work of the various Maternity and Child Welfare Associations in the area is producing results.

The Tuberculosis Death Rate was .62 per 1,000, which compares favourably with that of other similar districts.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

Public Supply :—

The Mid-Sussex Water Co. supplies part of Wivelsfield.

The Burgess Hill Water Co. supplies parts of Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston.

Private Supply :—

Parts of Barcombe, Glynde, Ringmer and Firle *Healdingham*.

The rest of the district is dependent on wells, and during the drought of 1921 the matter became rather serious, and the question of further public supply was considered, but the expense would be serious.

None of the waters in this district seem to have any action on lead, and no cases of lead poisoning have come to my knowledge.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints have been received of pollution, and the various sewage outfalls seem to give a good effluent.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

The public systems at Ditchling, Newick, Firle and Ringmer have worked without trouble.

The private scheme at Glynde continues satisfactory.

The combined drainage from the Isolation Hospital and the Workhouse has run without any hitch.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

I have nothing more to say on this subject than last year. Earth closets, pail closets and middens are scattered over the rural parts, but the number of the middens is getting less.

Cesspools are of course in use in a great number of places, but no nuisance requiring statutory action has arisen.

SCAVENGING.

Regular scavenging is carried out in Ditchling, but there does not appear to be any necessity at present to inaugurate fresh schemes in other parts.

Privies and cesspools are emptied by private arrangement as required.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

The Inspector of Nuisances has given me the following numbers of the various visits paid during the year :—

<i>Number.</i>		<i>Inspections.</i>
	Houses	340
109	Cowstalls and sheds	100
13	Slaughterhouses	42
5	Sewage Outfalls	250
10	Bakehouses	20
3	Dairies	6
	Factories	20

36 New Houses were occupied.

17 Samples of water were analysed.

16 Notices were issued during the year, none of them statutory, and the defects in question were remedied.

PREMISES WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS (OR REGULATIONS).

Byelaws dealing with Slaughterhouses and with Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops are in force, but houses let in lodgings are not dealt with, and there are no offensive trades carried on, and no underground rooms occupied.

SCHOOLS.

There has been no complaint of nuisance arising in any of the schools.

FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

No cases of tuberculous milk have been reported and I have heard of none in cattle.

The three dairies and 109 cowstalls have been regularly inspected.

(b) MEAT.

There is no regular system of inspecting meat, but visits are paid, without previous notification, to the various places of slaughter.

In 1914 there were 14 slaughterhouses registered.

In 1920 „ „ 14 „ „

In 1921 „ „ 13 „ „

There is no public abattoir.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifications received :—

	1920.	1921.
Scarlet Fever	22	24
Erysipelas	5	5
Dysentery	10	16
Enteric	2	1
Encephalitis	1	—
Pneumonia	2	1
Diphtheria	1	4
	<hr/> 43	<hr/> 51

All the cases of dysentery and the enteric were Asylum cases. One patient was notified as encephalitis and removed to the Brighton County Borough Sanatorium at once, but the patient was found at the postmortem to have another form of brain disease and the notification was cancelled.

Notifications received from schools are distinctly of value, especially in enabling non-notifiable diseases such as whooping-cough to become known.

The arrangements made for cleansing verminous persons at the Isolation Hospital and Work-house jointly have not been required.

Occasional deaths are recorded from tuberculosis, and no notification has been received. In these cases it is my practice to point out the omission to the doctor concerned.

The following Acts were adopted during the year :—

(a) The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

(b) The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, so far as it is applicable to Rural Sanitary Districts.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(1) STAFF :—

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector. An Inspector was appointed to carry out the Housing and Town Planning Acts, for a period of twelve months, which expired in August, and he was not re-appointed.

(2) HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION :—

The Joint Smallpox Hospital has not been required for use this year.

Chailey Isolation Hospital at South Common, which is under the administration of the Council, with the M.O.H. as Medical Superintendent, has again had a busy year, as the figures given below testify.

(3) BACTERIOLOGICAL AIDS, &c.

Every practitioner has been supplied with a sputum outfit, and with a swab for diphtheritic suspects, and there has been a slightly increased use made of them this year. This is done by arrangement with the Clinical Research Association, and is free of cost to the medical man or patient.

The services of the M.O.H. have been called upon occasionally for consultation on suspected cases of infectious disease, and are available when required.

A stock of antitoxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital and given to doctors on request.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The staff is made up of the Matron, Mrs. Fairbank, one nurse and one probationer, as far as technical work is concerned, with your M.O.H. as Superintendent.

The patients treated during the year were :—

					Chailey R.D.	Other districts.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	24	6	30
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	3	16	19
					—	—	—
					27	22	49
					—	—	—

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the whole of the staff, from the Matron downwards, for the way in which they have carried on. There have been times of rush and stress, as must inevitably be the case, and everything has gone smoothly and uninterruptedly.

HOUSING.

The general condition of the housing in the district is up to the average of a rural area.

No bad cases of overcrowding have been brought forward, and the defects found to exist are not serious.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

STATISTICS.

Year ending 31st December, 1921.

1.—GENERAL.

(1) Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,590
(2) General Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.94
(3) Tuberculosis death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.62
(4) Infant mortality	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.4
(5) Dwelling Houses of all classes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,748
(6) Working class dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,235
(7) Working class dwelling-houses erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	340
(2) Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	320
(3) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for habitation	0
(4) Number (exclusive of those referred to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0

I. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.

Nil.

III. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, etc., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	16
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners	16
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owner	0
(b) Local Authority in default of owner	0

C. *Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.*

Nil.

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Nil.

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 ... none

5.—Staff engaged on housing work :—

M.O.H., general duties.

Sanitary Inspector, general duties.

Assistant Inspector, specially appointed, for twelve months, ending August, 1920. 1621

W. A. DOW, M.D., D.P.H.

